

Scams Against the Elderly

August 2002

An elderly female victim received a phone call from a man who identified himself as "Paul Cole", stating that he worked for the Canadian Government. Mr. Cole explained that he obtained the victim's name and phone number from a list and said he could offer her a large sum of money for a minimal investment.

Mr. Cole told her the Canadian Government wanted to allow Americans to invest money into the Canadian Government for a large return. He told her if she sent him enough money, she would be able to receive 11 (eleven) million dollars. The victim agreed to send him \$1,800 through Western Union. After sending him the money, Mr. Cole called her again requesting she send him more money to ensure her 11 million dollars would not be "under funded." The victim then wired the suspect an additional \$2,975.00 via Western Union. Mr. Cole requested that the victim not tell anybody about this and that he would be contacting her again with some good news. Mr. Cole contacted the victim on three different occasions, requesting additional funds, which were then sent by the victim.

Some time later, the victim was contacted by a "Paul Williams" who identified himself as working for the same company that "Paul Cole" did. Williams requested that she send him \$2,975.00 to "make sure this deal works." Which the victim did. Victim told police she had sent six payments totaling \$17,850.00 to these two individuals . The victim continues to receive calls from the two suspects who to encourage her to make additional payments and that her big payoff is "just around the corner."

Needless to say, this woman has been thoroughly scammed. This case is currently under investigation, but I wanted to make sure that others don't fall for the same type of scam.

Please keep in mind the following:

- Do not ever give out any personal information to somebody over the internet or telephone.
- Do not ever send money to some unknown entity in the form of a cashier's check, money order, Western Union wire, etc. It's basically untraceable.
- If you feel somebody has contacted you about a scam, please be sure to contact police and file a report immediately.
- Do not ever think you will get something for nothing. Because you will get something, except it will come in the form of nothing (make sense?)

As long as there is greed in the world, these types of scams will remain successful. These two individuals took terrible advantage of this poor woman. Don't let this happen to you.

July 2002

We truly had a victim of a horrible scam during the month of July. An elderly woman was

approached outside her bank by two women. They stated that they desperately needed a ride to their home, which was only a few miles away. They coerced the woman into giving them the ride. One female suspect sat in the front seat with the victim, talking to her incessantly and providing driving directions to their "home." The other female suspect sat in the back seat, where the victim's purse was sitting on the floor.

The victim was relieved to finally drop them off in front of a residence, but did not wait to see if they went inside. When the victim returned home, she found that her wallet was missing from her purse. Several of her credit cards had already been used, and the suspects had taken her last \$40 that she needed to buy groceries for the month. The victim was embarrassed that she fell for the ploy and was even angrier that somebody would take such terrible advantage of somebody that had it in their heart to do them a favor.

This poor woman learned a lesson the hard way. Even though she had severe misgivings about giving these women a ride, she didn't want to seem discourteous. Unfortunately, in the end, she found that you can never be too careful.

If anybody ever approaches you in such a way, tell them "NO!" and then call police to report their behavior as soon as possible. Even though you may know the right thing to do, calling police will assist us in preventing them from taking advantage of somebody else.